

VZCZCXRO4421
OO RUEHLH RUEHPW
DE RUEHIL #2907 2471455
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 031455Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8620
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 9083
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 8614
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3724
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0264
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 6004
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4811
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 4336
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 002907

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#)

SUBJECT: GOP CONDEMNS ALLEGED ISAF SEPTEMBER 3 INCIDENT IN
SOUTH WAZIRISTAN

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson for reasons 1.4 (b), (d).

¶1. (C) Late September 3, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir called in the Ambassador to relay the GOP's intent to release a public statement, from the Foreign Ministry and possibly later from the Army's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), condemning the alleged early morning September 3 "cross-border attack" by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) into South Waziristan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Bashir informed the Ambassador that there had been civilian casualties. He urged the USG to understand the government's political need to publicly respond, prompted by the frontier tribes.

¶2. (C) Bashir noted the overall engagement at the bilateral and tripartite levels was "good;" this incident was different from previous operations because ISAF air assets (helicopters) had been used, he claimed. Bashir also charged that action was taken without regard to the high-level understanding between the two military commands, i.e., ISAF had not taken the Pakistan Army "into confidence."

¶3. (C) The statement, Bashir stated, would convey Pakistan's "strong condemnation," note the use of helos, label the incident a "cross-border use of force," and argue that such incidents do not help the countries' "common cause" against extremism. The USG would not be specifically blamed. (Text at para 5.) He added that the National Assembly would be back in session on September 4 (prior to the September 6 presidential election) and that GOP federal ministers could be expected to take "strong positions" during plenary against the ISAF actions.

¶4. (C) The Ambassador agreed to report his comments to Washington.

¶5. (U) Begin text:

Press Release

Pakistan condemns attack in Angoor Adda by Coalition/ISAF forces

The Government of Pakistan strongly condemns the assault by Coalition/ISAF troops on a village near Angoor Adda inside Pakistani territory, which has resulted in immense loss of civilian life.

This helicopter borne ground attack, supported by air assets

based in Afghanistan, is (a) gross violation of Pakistan's territory.

It is, indeed, most unfortunate that Coalition/ISAF in Afghanistan have resorted to cross-border use of force against civilians. Such actions are counter-productive and certainly do not help our joint efforts to fight terrorism. On the contrary, they undermine the very basis of cooperation and may fuel the fire of hatred and violence that we are trying to extinguish. Moreover, any attack on Pakistani territory is unacceptable and constitutes a grave provocation.

A strong diplomatic protest is being made by the Foreign Ministry.

End text.

PATTERSON